

July 14, 2022

Honorable Montgomery County Council Members

RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to adding of \$1,000,000 of the county FY23 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services for Assistance to Access Abortion

With the passing of the Abortion Care Access Act during the 2022 Legislative session, the state of Maryland established the Abortion Clinical Care Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health, making substantial changes for the requirements related to who may perform abortions in the State. The establishment of an Abortion Care Clinical Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health comes with an annual appropriation of \$3.5 million to fund it. The state has already allocated taxpayer dollars to provide for the clinical training. I see no need to further burden Montgomery County taxpayers with an additional \$1.0 that is under consideration. A recently released ranking of the most expensive states to live in, published by CNBC, ranks Maryland as #7 in the nation, while Maryland is ranked #27 in terms of a “business friendly” environment. The citizens of Montgomery County already pay a significant amount in taxes, and this proposal would simply add more burden.

Since the state has already allocated budget to be set aside to ensure access to abortion care, perhaps the Council should instead give consideration for a well-funded comprehensive pregnancy and post-pregnancy aid program for women with crisis pregnancies.

In summary, I am adamantly opposed to this proposal. I do not support tax dollars spent on the training of abortionists. Nor do I want others than properly trained OBGYN specialists permitted to perform abortions. But since that has been determined in the last legislative session, I want to express my strong opposition to the Council’s proposal. Thank you once again for your consideration and action on of my observations and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Wilson
Long-time resident of MD District 17